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3. — *Biographical Register of the Officers and Graduates of the United States Military Academy at West Point, N. Y., from its Establishment, March 16, 1802, to the Army Reorganization of 1866 – 67.* By BREVET MAJOR-GENERAL GEORGE W. CULLUM, Colonel, Corps of Engineers, U. S. Army. New York: Van Nostrand. 2 vols. 8vo.

GENERAL CULLUM has finally published his long-expected Revised Register of West Point Graduates. It is a book indispensable to every one who studies the military history or establishment of the Republic; but its keenest interest is for those who are its subject. It gives concisely, but fully and accurately, the leading events in the life of each graduate, from the opening of the Academy to the reorganization of the army in 1866; and the simple record of efforts, triumphs, and tragedies is the more affecting to the survivors from the close ties with which the Academy has bound together the Regular Army. An *esprit de corps* unknown to any other college in the country is created by the very nature and regulations of the institution. Cadets just emerging from boyhood are separated from their homes and from the world for four years. For amends they are bound together by constant intercourse and a systematic emulation in studies, arts, exercises, and amusements. They are in constant and familiar association with localities and scenes famous in Cadet tradition for the deeds of their predecessors, to which their own exploits are to be added,—both forming through their lives an exhaustless theme for the night watches in the steaming jungles of the Everglades or the icy mountains of Oregon. And to whatever post an officer may go, he will be welcomed by those who know him intimately, at least by reputation, and with whom he has a thousand common interests. Isolation magnifies trifles; and in the little absolute despotism of West Point party spirit runs high, and for ten years before the war Cadets took sides in their violent political disputes, almost to a man, as they were afterwards divided, in life or in death, on the hard-fought battle-fields of the great Rebellion; and as then, after the dispute, Cadets would quietly fall in and march to mess to discuss over their hash the performance of their horses at cavalry drill, so during the war, on our side at least, after the prisoners were brought in, it was no rare sight to find a Rebel as much at home in the camp of some former room-mate or comrade as though for the time every principle of the “little unpleasantness” was forgotten, and the dingy Rebel gray was transformed, and represented to their eyes nothing but the old spruce uniform, more familiar to them both than any other.

This freemasonry seems an obnoxious exclusiveness to some unreasonable opponents who ignore its advantages. It is probably one of the causes of the violent and unjust attacks to which the Academy is so often subject. The Preface of General Cullum's Register gives and suggests facts which should disarm such assailants, and which are invaluable for the defence made by its friends, and for candid inquirers after the truth.

In the first years of the late war many undeserved reproaches were thrown out against the Academy for failing to accomplish impossibilities, and the country seemed ignorant of the familiar principle, of which General Cullum here reminds us, that for great commanders ability, knowledge, and experience — all three — are essential. In 1861 there was no military experience in the country at all proportioned to the necessary scale of operations; there was, no doubt, more military ability among the men whose tastes had impelled them to seek West Point than among the same number in civil life; and military knowledge was confined to the Regular Army and to the graduates. Under these circumstances, it would seem to have been clear where our leaders should have been sought exclusively at the outset. The assembled wisdom of the nation thought differently, and it is an instructive study to compare the places held by political generals in the Union army early in the war with the results they had accomplished at its close. General Cullum, with the modesty of a veteran, does not refer to this; but the *Army Register* for 1866 shows, that, of the seventeen general officers of the Regular Army at the end of the war, all but one were graduates of West Point; and without detracting from General Terry's glory, it is just to say that his promotion was rather due to the enthusiasm for one valuable victory than for well-established generalship, and that this victory was of the straight-forward sort that depends more on the body of troops than on their head.

But war, if an expensive, is also a thorough school, and the knowledge and experience gained in the Rebellion were so great in proportion, that they were rapidly destroying the advantage in these respects before held by regularly educated soldiers; and by the end of the war, leaders, whether Volunteer or Regular, were fast falling into the places their ability entitled them to.

It is true, many West Point commanders failed, even where this was not due to their supporters or to circumstances. This is only allowing that all did not possess the three requisites that have been mentioned. But it must be remembered that the Confederacy advanced its West Point graduates much more systematically than we did, and that many a defeat for the Union was still a success, though on the wrong side, for West Point.

This leads us to speak of the loyalty of West Point graduates. It is a common notion that they were under peculiar obligations to the United States government. This mistake is well exposed by General Cullum, who argues unanswerably that they were educated by the country for its benefit, and not for their own; and that the event has proved the economy of the Academy, even in dollars and cents. This is clear from a view which the author only hints at. Every Cadet is enlisted to serve four years after graduating. In these four years, most of them — all those in staff corps — have responsibilities and perform duties that in commercial life would command pay enough higher than they receive to amply compensate for the cost of their education. It is difficult to see that the crime of a Southern graduate in rebelling is any greater than that of any other government official.

But are we not assuming a little too much in taking the disloyalty of West Point for granted? One of the saddest experiences of the war was the observation of the deep-seated, firm conviction in the minds of many of the most high-minded, religious Southern men and women, and growing from their first consciousness in the minds of their children, that their cause was a righteous one, and that they were resisting an unholy war of invasion; one of the pleasantest sights in a general view, but without much comfort for our side, immediate or future, was that of the active, cordial sympathy of the Southern women with the men, — even more general and efficient than with us. The question was not brought home to us, and it is hard for us to form an idea of the strength and suffering required for a kindly, right-minded man to give up the dearest ties of earth for a point of abstract morality enveloped in a thick cloud of casuistry, and to become a reproach and an outcast in the land of his fathers. If those who failed in this test deserve censure, certainly those who stood it deserve no common praise, — and in reference to these Gen. Cullum gives us facts and figures of which West Point may well be proud. He says: —

“ It is unfortunately true that many forgot the flag under which they were educated, to follow false gods. But who were the *leaders* of this treason, but the honored and trusted in the land, filling, or who had filled, the highest places in the government, — Senators, Representatives, Members of the Cabinet, Foreign Ministers, Judges of United States Courts, and even those who had been elected by the people to fill the highest offices in their gift? Was it, then, a greater crime for graduates of our national Academy to forsake their country than for the highest officials in every branch of the government, executive, legislative, and judicial, who, from the seceding States, almost to a man, joined the Rebel standard?

“ But let us examine this Rebellion Record a little more closely. In the executive department four Presidents were living when secession began. Of

these, the only Southerner joined the Rebels; another did the country more harm than an avowed enemy; while the others, certainly, were not over-demonstrative in their efforts to preserve the Union. Belonging to the bench of the Supreme Court there were four Southern Judges, of whom two remained loyal, one was strongly sympathetic with the South, and one joined the Rebels. The Southern Judges of the United States District Courts sided with their own people. Of the Senators in Congress from the seceding States but *one*, and of the House of Representatives but *three*, remained loyal. Nearly all the agents of the State, Treasury, Interior, and Post-Office Departments, residing in, or from the seceding States, espoused the Rebel cause. . . . Of those appointed in the army from civil life nearly *one half*, while but a little over *one fifth* of the West Point officers, left the service, and joined in the Rebellion. . . .

"The statistics show that the West Point part of the army has been by far the most loyal branch of the public service; that nearly *four fifths* of its graduate officers remained faithful; that one half of those from the South stood firm by the stars and stripes; and in the battles for the Union, that *one fifth* of those engaged laid down their lives, more than *one third*, and probably *one half*, were wounded, and the survivors can point with manly pride to their services here recorded for the preservation of the nation."

With these facts stated, the Academy needs no eulogy, and can securely rest her honor on her loyal children, and her efficiency on her turbulent children as well.

The book in respect to taste and execution is admirable. It does not stoop to preserve the fame of misdirected valor, and the only notice of the most eminent Rebels after leaving our service, as though when they lost their honor they had lost their lives with it, is, that they "joined in the Rebellion of 1861-1866 against the United States," with the date and place of their death, when known. The labor of compilation and correction was immense; the arrangement is singularly convenient, systematic, and happy; and the result is a new honor in peace to its author already so distinguished in war, and a new illustration of the claims of the institution he defends.

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4. — *A Memoir of the Life and Labors of FRANCIS WAYLAND, D. D., LL. D., late President of Brown University. With Selections from his Personal Reminiscences and Correspondence.* By his Sons, F. and H. L. WAYLAND. New York: Sheldon & Co. 1867. 2 vols. 12mo. pp. 429, 379.

DR. WAYLAND'S will always be a very considerable name, not only in the history of the respectable and influential denomination to which he belonged, but still more in the educational history of New England. As